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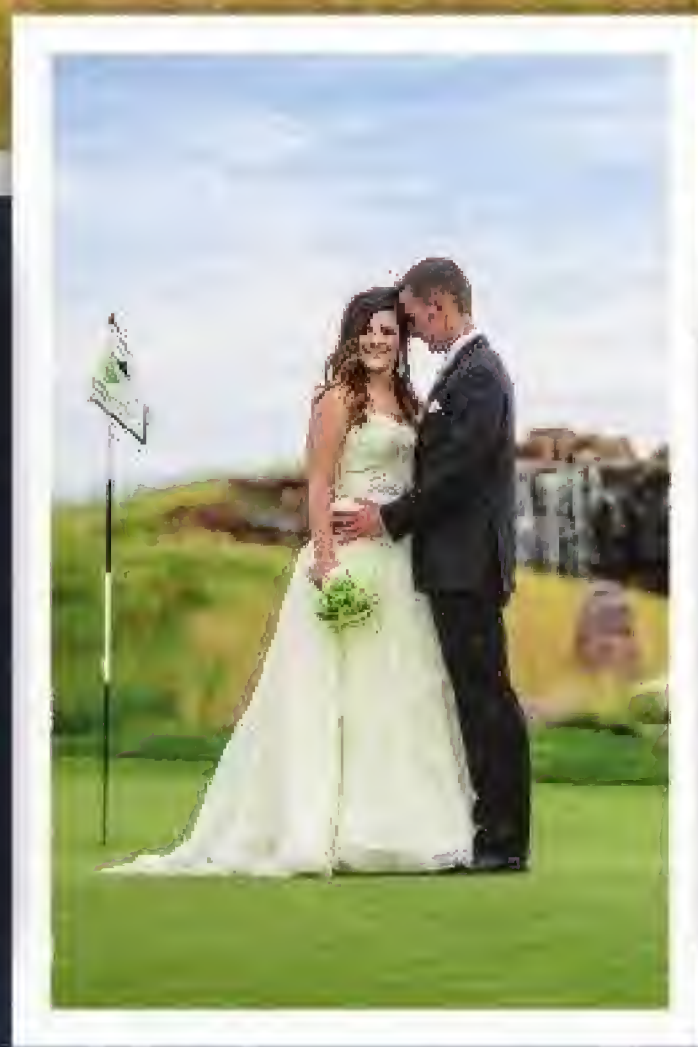
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Spring / Summer 2016

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Congratulations to everyone who has gotten engaged this year! It's such an exciting, invigorating time when you're discovering "your" day – what colors work, what style speaks to you, heirlooms and traditions that will be passed on, what your vows will sound like, and how you will celebrate marrying the love of your life.

We had such a blast creating the spring/summer 2016 issue! Starting with seemingly gale force winds with our "Farm to Table" shoot, we had an incredible North Dakota team of vendors bring our farmers' market concept to life. You would never know menus, honey-dippers, and the like were constantly flying off tables from the intense breeze (did we mention double-sided tape is our best friend?)!

Our "Just Married" bridal shoot also had nature test us with a blizzard happening overnight, causing slippery conditions and road advisories. We soon forgot about that once Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort and Hilton Garden Inn Sioux Falls Downtown let us in to their nicest suites for a day of pretend for what happens after the reception is over. Our brides (wearing local South Dakota-designed gowns) had their cake and ate it too... with champagne, of course.

Let's just say we're as thrilled as you are that sunny weather is back. We have fun DIY projects for hosting outdoor parties, a plethora of ideas for desserts for the non-cake lover, newlyweds with a newborn, and so much more!

Grab a cold, fruity beverage and enjoy! Thanks for the love, and share how you read your copy with #DaintyObsessions.

Happy planning,

Alana Snyder

Follow Alana on Instagram: @alanabow

DaintyObsessions.com



See step-by-step instructions on how to make your pineapple vase from our Dainty Living feature



Catch up on the latest inspiration, like unique save the date ideas (cookies by Sugar's Baked Goods and Sweet Treats)



Swoon over more Midwest real weddings every week on the blog



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PUBLISHER

The Mighty Bowtones, LLC

MANAGING EDITOR

Alana Snyder

EDITOR

Denise DePaolo

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Liz Painter

SALES MANAGER

Emily Swan

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Glasser Images & Jaimee Morse

CORRESPONDENCE

300 N. Cherapa Place, Suite 504

Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605.274.1999 | contact@daintyobsessions.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

Emily Swan | 605.274.1999 ex. 4

sales@daintyobsessions.com

CHECK US OUT

www.daintyobsessions.com



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SPRING COVER

Photography: Glasser Images

Styling + Flowers: Sadie's Couture Floral & Event Styling

Makeup: Glamour Grace

Dress: Caroline Hayden

Model: Ashley Dedlin



SUMMER COVER

Photography: Jaimee Morse

Floral Styling + Décor: Love Over Gold

Flowers: Secret Garden Floral

Dress: Blush Bridal

Bride + Groom: Alyssa and Bryce Caldwell




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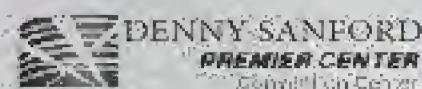
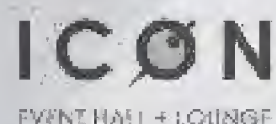
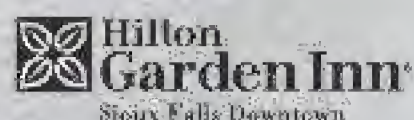
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Manning editor Alana Snyder checks out Omaha Fashion Week in August to see bridal gowns walk down the runway from local designers Caleb Hanner and Adrienne Anderson (pictured).



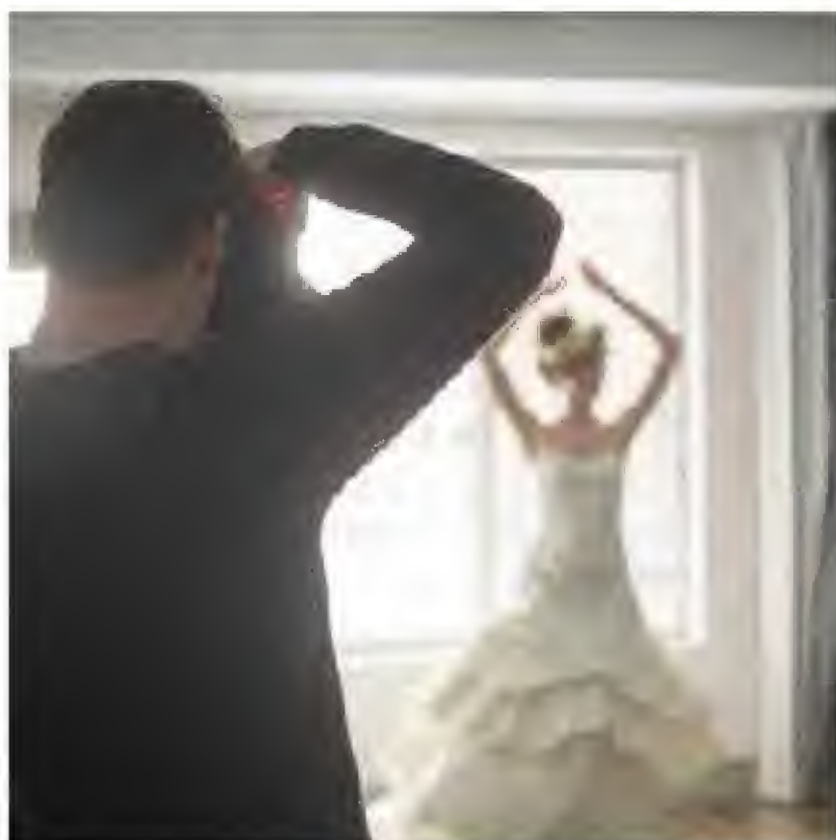
Justin and John of Grassfire Studios set up shots of our "Farm to Table" shoot with sales manager Emily Swan at Rustic Oaks.



A butterfly lands on our tablescape during the Dainty Living shoot at the Sertoma Butterfly House. It coordinates perfectly with the orange, no?



Our gorgeous floral arrangement for staff photos created by The Flower Mill team. It was so beautiful that we took it home afterwards to host a dinner party!



Wes Esenhauer of Wes Esenhauer Photography catches model Catherine Holland in action twirling in her Jacklyn Bridal gown during a styled shoot.

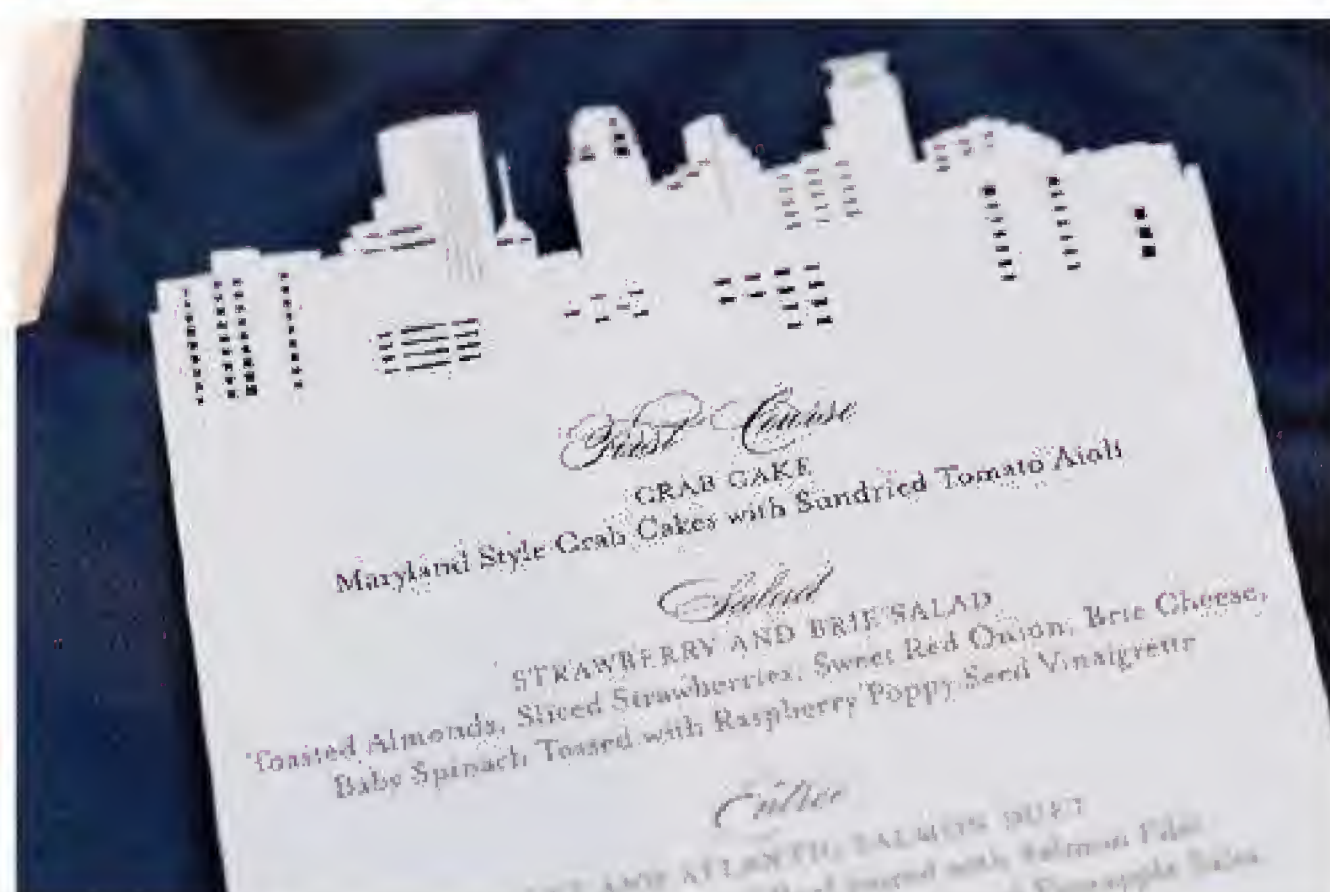


The incredible staff at Johnny Carino's adds whipped cream to "top off" the shot of the Italian Soda Bar for our Food + Drink shoot.

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A Milestone Paper Co.

Sarah Glad fell in love with paper goods and design when she, her sister, and her sister-in-law collaborated and created each other's stationery for their weddings. Seeing a need for custom stationery at a reasonable price point, they started A Milestone Paper Co. headquartered in Minnesota. Now taking over the company on her own, Sarah has around 100 weddings a year. We chatted with her about trends, etiquette, and why keeping it personal makes her world go 'round.

Tell me a bit about how you started.

Sarah Glad: Milestone started with my sister and my sister-in-law, and we collaboratively did our invitations for each of our weddings. We kind of looked around and realized there was a niche that we could fill as far as creative wedding invitations with a lot of personal touch, but at a reasonable price point. We found that you could DIY or order from a book or online, which wasn't very personal, or you could go super high-end to a really beautiful shop, but shops that were out of our price range as far as what we were able to spend. So we saw a new spot in there.

That's awesome.

SG: Yeah! We put our heads together and sorted out how to get the printing taken care of and the software and those things we would need and taught ourselves to do that and launched into the wedding world nine years ago.

And now you're doing over 100 weddings a year?!

SG: It keeps me really busy, but I think it's a really great mix. For the things that I have, I have a good system to streamline things so I can devote time to make parts of my business really





Photos: Janette Elise Photography (image 2), Graddy Photography (image 3), Leah Foxhallo Photography (image 4), Jennifer Togi Photography (image 6), and Betsy Wall Photography (image 7)

personal and hands-on. So it's a good mix of streamlining some things to free up time to make it personal on other things.

That must have taken some time to figure out how to streamline.

SG: Yeah, exactly! I had to keep revisiting what was important and essential to the business, and being a really friendly, easy, comfortable part of the wedding planning process has always been so important to me. I feel like so many elements of planning a wedding can get really stressful and overwhelming, and I think for some people invitations could be overwhelming. I've always had focus that I want this to be a little sweet spot in the whole process of planning because so much of it can get hard and stressful.

What are some trends you have noticed in stationery?

SG: I would say last year – and already this year – I've seen a fun mix back to traditional, formal weddings. Black and gold, navy and gold, navy and blush; kind of a straightforward, elegant palette. On the other end of things I've noticed very non-traditional, playful, super-personalized weddings. They almost feel like opposite visions, which is fun for me because I get to do a lot of different stuff.

What are some of the most common questions you get?

SG: I get a lot of etiquette questions, of course. There's not one etiquette question that can come up that I haven't worked through a solution on. That's never a problem. It often feels really overwhelming to the bride until we talk it through, and we always do. A lot of questions brides have now are wanting and expecting (rightly so) weddings to really be a reflection of them. So a lot of questions of, 'How can we make this feel like us?' And that is sort of at the heart of everything we do.

Are there any major rules you shouldn't break?

SG: As time passes, I feel like we take a lot more liberties with etiquette. Generally I say what etiquette books will tell them, but always add that they're the bride, and if they want to do it a certain way, it's completely up to them. If it doesn't feel like them, I don't think they should have to follow it.

Any big tip you have in regards to stationery?

SG: I always encourage brides to go into the wedding invitation process to see how we can perfectly mix convenience for their guests and the vision for their wedding invitations. A blend of form and function is perfect for that. It's great to convey as much information as possible to your guests so they're not looking up information like routes to take or where to stay. If you make it easier, they're more likely to have an amazing time.

3 fun facts about A Milestone Paper Co.

- *Milestone started with Sarah's sisters in the basement of her home.*
- *Sarah spends a lot of time during the winter at hockey rinks cheering on her son and daughter and their youth hockey teams and, in a fun personal-life-meets-work-life way, she's been able to create wedding invitations for several NHL players and their wives.*
- *She geeks out over design – for instance, she loves creating custom maps.*

What are some unique requests you've received?

SG: I've done several invitations in the last year or so with either the city or state as a major design element. I just designed an invitation where we used architectural elements of the venue as an element in their invite. I have sketched a couple's cat to be included in invitations. There has been some fun, quirky wording to express the couple's personality... There are so many!

Do you take national orders?

SG: I do! Really the only step in the process with a local order versus a national order is we just have to have our initial meeting by Skype or FaceTime. It's really very doable.

When do you recommend for a client to initially contact you?

SG: I would say a really sweet spot is 6-9 months ahead of time, but we can work with people with a shorter timeline than that for sure and – on the other side – we can work out much farther than that.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

SG: I spend the rest of my time with my kids and husband. I have kids that are 9, 12 and 13, so we're in the busy stage of life where we're running around a lot for different sports and activities. Besides family, I love to spend time with great friends, and I love to run and travel!



Etiquette *with*

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Q: I am having a Friday wedding, which I have heard has become more popular. What is the etiquette for a Friday wedding? Should the ceremony happen after 5 p.m.? What other tips are helpful so guests and the bridal party don't hate me?

A: With a Friday wedding, yes, it's best to start the ceremony after 5 p.m. so local guests don't have to take time off of work to attend. Since Friday weddings are becoming increasingly popular, you shouldn't run into too many disgruntled guests. After all, if they're invited to your wedding, they should be friends and family who love you and are happy to attend no matter what day of the week it is! However, be sure that your wedding party is aware not only of the date, but more specifically, the day of the week prior to their agreeing to stand up with you. Members of the wedding party have more responsibility than general wedding guests, and they'll need to make sure they can be there on Thursday if you're planning a traditional ceremony rehearsal and rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding.

For a Saturday wedding, out-of-town guests may arrive Friday night and leave Sunday morning, having no time to enjoy the city where you've chosen to get married. A Friday wedding gives you the benefit of spending an entire weekend with your loved ones! Don't jet off on your honeymoon the day after the wedding. Instead, plan a group activity on Saturday for everyone sticking around for the weekend. Cheer on your local sports team at a game, go bowling, or meet at a park for a picnic lunch. Don't feel the need to host anything (you've just treated them all to the best party ever the day before!), just make the plans so your guests don't have to, and

enjoy reliving all the wonderful memories from the wedding day.

Q: My friend is a new professional in the wedding industry. She's starting to build her portfolio with her photography business, and she has already pressured several of my friends to photograph their weddings. I love her to death, but her photography is not my style. How do I politely tell her 'no' when my time comes?

A: This is a tough situation, but it actually has a pretty easy answer. Just tell your friend that you fully support her in her new business venture and love her passion for her craft, but you don't want her to be your photographer because you really want her to be a guest at your wedding. Be firm in letting her know that you just won't have her working your wedding – it's more important to you that she fully enjoys herself and is able to celebrate as a friend and not a vendor.

Q: I'm so excited to be in the bridal party for my college friend's wedding. That being said, we have spent over \$300 on dresses, \$70 on shoes, hundreds of dollars on a trip for her bachelorette party, and had a fancy country club brunch for her bridal shower. Do I have to still buy her a wedding present?

A: The short answer is yes, you still need to buy her a wedding present. Unfortunately, agreeing to be part of a wedding party can come with a high financial responsibility! No need to go overboard on spending for the wedding gift, though. Find something with more sentimental significance rather than high monetary value. Being such a special guest gives you permission to deviate from

the wedding registry and gift the couple with something far more personal. Also, keep this experience in mind when it's your turn to walk down the aisle; consider your bridesmaids' budgets when selecting their dresses and your bachelorette party location. If you choose, you can also certainly let your wedding party know that they should not feel obligated to get you a wedding gift, considering their financial investment.

Q: I have six bridesmaids in my wedding party, and they are all mixed with elementary school friends, high school friends, college friends, new friends, and family. My sister is going to give the maid of honor speech, but my other friends keep warning me about what they're going to say. What is the proper protocol for speeches? I love my friends, but I also don't want to be that wedding where speeches drag on and also want to avoid any potential embarrassment.

A: First of all, let's hope that your close friends would have only good intentions for their speeches; no one should want to embarrass the bride on her big day! That being said, you definitely don't want to add five additional speeches to the lineup at your reception. Typically, the speeches at the reception will be made by the father/parents of the bride (and sometimes the father/parents of the groom as well), best man and maid of honor. All others who would like to honor you and your new husband with speeches or toasts should be invited to do so at the rehearsal dinner. This smaller, intimate setting is perfect for those extra speeches and won't compete or interfere with scheduled aspects of your reception such as the cake cutting and first dance.



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Engagement Story



BLAKE + JOE

"It's kind of a long story," Blake Ostrander, a Chicago native, says as she thinks about how she met her husband, Joe.

Over 10 years ago, her parents worked with Joe's parents, and they convinced her family to get a place in Naples, FL.

"We ended up buying the floor below them in an apartment building," she said. "That's when I met Joe and his family."

While she technically met him then, she didn't necessarily want to know him romantically. They were both young, and Blake eventually moved to Denver, CO. But fate intervened.

"I moved out to Colorado, and Joe ended up moving out six months after me, so our parents were like, 'You guys should have dinner!'" she recalled. "He was kind of a hellion when he was

a child, so I wasn't sure if I was really interested in that. I kind of waited around a little bit until he asked a couple of times, and we ended up getting together and started dating."

What changed? Well, he wasn't so young anymore.

"He had completely grown up. You know how boys are when they're teenagers, they're kind of crazy and in trouble all the time, and I wasn't interested if he was still like that," said Blake. "But he's a really good skier, is really nice, really funny, and has a lot of fun things going on, and that's what won me over. And he has a great family, which is really helpful, too."

Wooing her with Blackhawks games and weekends at Copper Mountain, their relationship started to get serious.

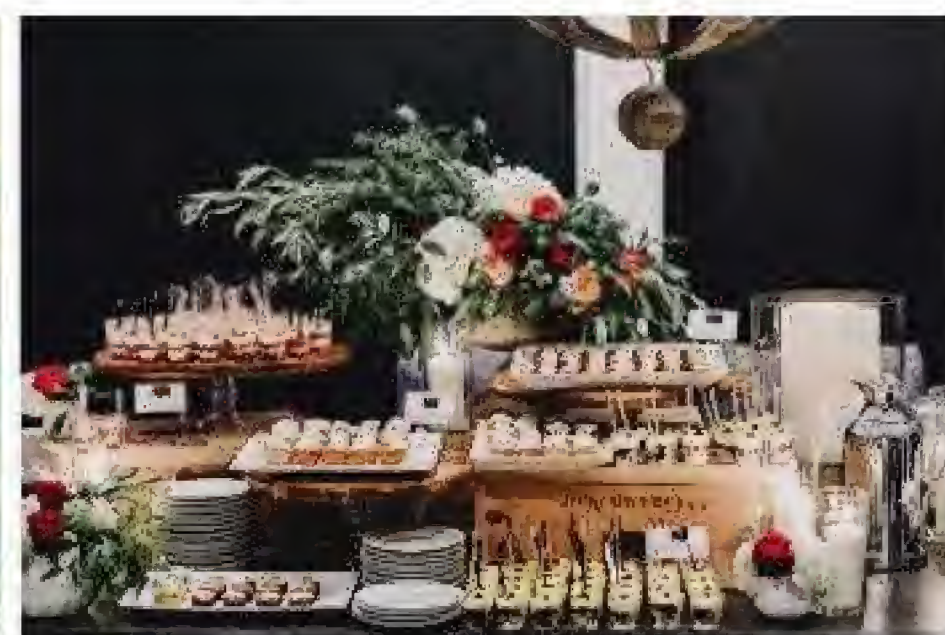
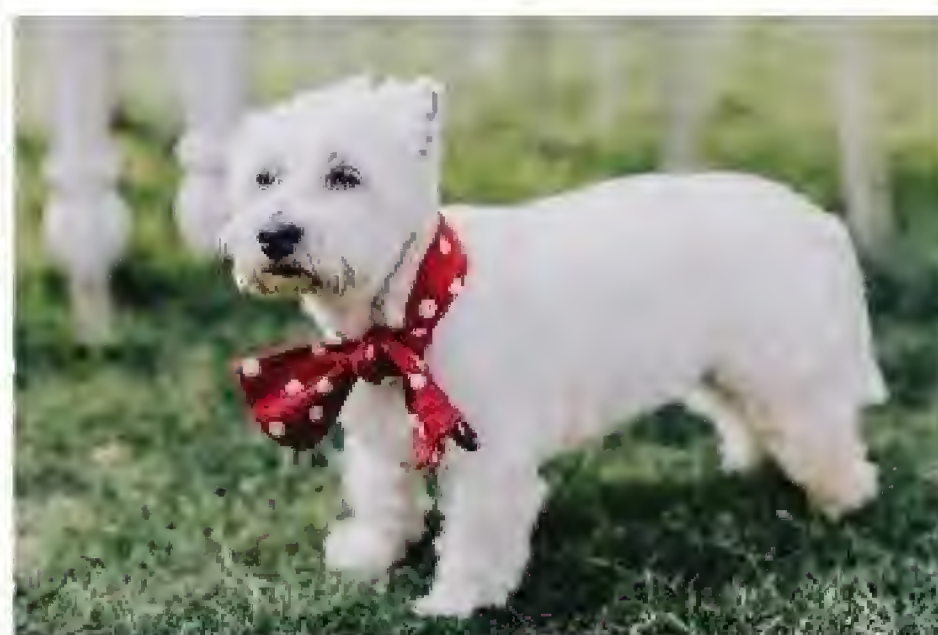
Fast forward to a normal day, when Joe told Blake they had to go to California for a work off-site trip.

"We had just done that for my work, so I wasn't surprised at all," she said.

Blake met him in San Francisco, and they started the drive to... well... she wasn't sure where.

"He told me we were near Pebble Beach and that he had called a friend who was going to get him on the course to drive around right before it closed, because he wanted to see it so badly, which made sense," she said. "So we got there, and he said we should ask the Pro Shop to play a hole, and they were like, 'Of course you can,' which seemed strange."

Without question, they handed them free golf clubs and golf balls and suggested to play the



CAITLIN NIGHTINGALE *photography*



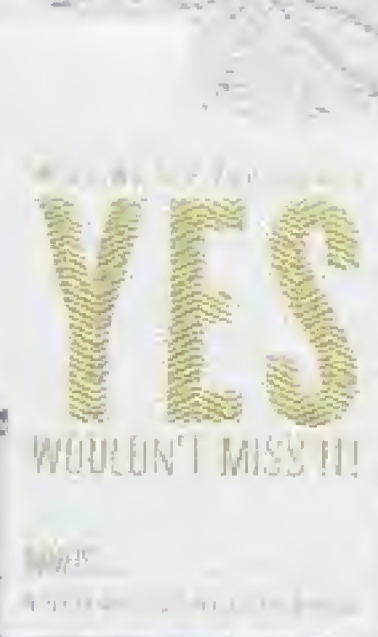
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most iconic hole on the course.

"It was freezing out, so I had to change out of a cute dress into ugly golf clothes, of course," she laughed. "He got up to the tee and shanks one into the water because he's clearly a little nervous, and then I hit mine and shot it right on the edge of the green."

As she walked up to putt, Blake noticed something sticking out of the hole.

"I see this oblong box that I think is a gift for Joe and thought, *well that was nice of them*, thinking Pebble Beach got him a gift. I took it out, and he takes it out of my hand right away and got

down and proposed."

After realizing they weren't, in fact, on a work trip, they actually played Pebble Beach the following day and then continued the celebration in Napa Valley.

Along with showers in her hometown, another big celebration happened thanks to Joe's mother, Kristin. She suggested they throw an incredible engagement party on their property at Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota overlooking the water. Rosetree Weddings & Events brought the evening to life, inspired by a trip the family once took to the South of France.

"We knew we were going to do it over the Fourth of July, because we go to Lake Minnetonka every year, and decided to throw the party then," said Blake.

Over 30 guests enjoyed a Croatian menu, beautiful florals from Whimsy Event Design, music by Bluewater Kings Band, and fireworks to end the night with a boom from Premier Pyrotechnics.

"Kristin was the mastermind behind the entire thing," said Blake. "After that, I was like, 'Let's not have a wedding!'"

**JOE
OSTRANDER
+ BLAKE
BARTTER**

HOME: Madison, WI

PROPOSAL DATE: May
7, 2014

WEDDING DATE:
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Pinnacle Productions

Power duo Chris Hintz and Jeff Meuzelaar turned their weaknesses into each other's strength when they joined forces in 2014 for the already successful wedding entertainment company, Pinnacle Productions. Hintz, founder and president, specializes in sales and organization, while Meuzelaar, partner and vice president, is a marketing and online guru. What once started in Hintz's home now hosts over 1,100 events a year with 18 employees.

How did Pinnacle Productions begin?

Chris Hintz: In 2002 I was engaged and started looking at ways to generate money. I started going out to different events and watching other people to see what was working for them. I then tried to take the best of both worlds and utilize what I thought would work for me, personally, as an entertainer and transition into what I do. I really like people, and that was probably the biggest thing. I like to go out and have fun and be social, and this is a good way to do that and make money.

And how did you two come together?

Jeff Meuzelaar: Chris and I were doing our own thing. I came here

(Sioux Falls, SD) in 2010 and we just became close friends and worked together on a few larger events. It came up that I wanted to grow and do bigger things but didn't have the infrastructure, and Chris was going through some transitions with partners and employees, so it felt like a natural fit to help fill his gaps but also give me a bigger sandbox to play in. We merged in June of 2014.

It seems you two are stronger together.

JM: Chris was known as one of the top-three wedding DJs probably in the region and I was at a high level, but not at that high of a level. I was at the top as a club DJ, and I was very respected in the private event sector. When we came together, I was able to infuse all of the experience I had from around the country in nightlife and modernize



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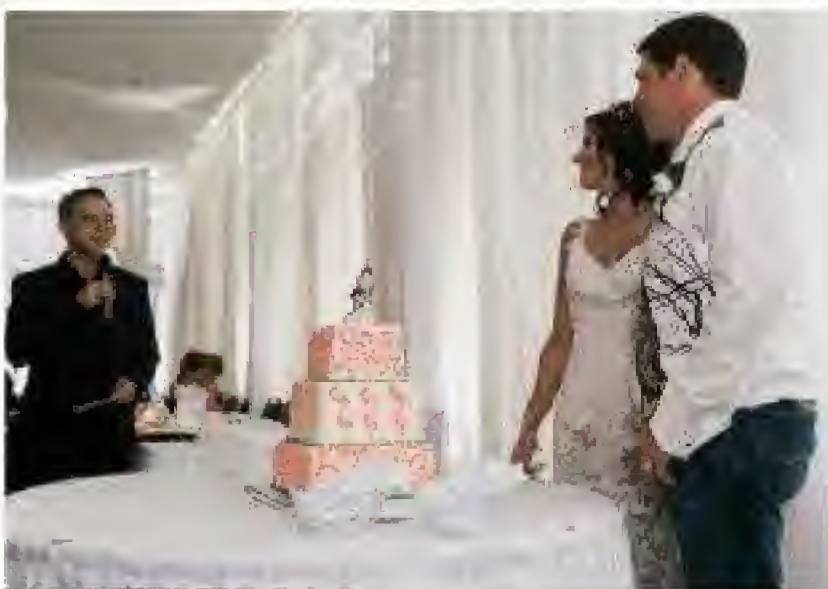


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Photos 2 and 5, Amanda's Imagery, Photo 4, Studio Blu Photography.

our style of private event entertainment, whether that be light design, how you mix music, how you select music, or how we market ourselves. Chris has taken me under his wing and made me one of the highest-level wedding DJs in the region now. It's common for us to travel four hours and have semi-destination weddings because of what we've established in this market.

What is Pinnacle known for in entertainment?

CH: I think what makes us good at what we do is the fact that we actually try to cultivate a real connection with the clients. We try to get to know them, what they want, what they don't want, and I would say 99 percent of people come in and say, 'We want to have fun.' Well, what does 'fun' mean? To one couple, it means playing club music and having Co2 cans of confetti, and to the next couple, it means having a very chill, low-key event where they are the center stage.

Tell us about keeping the 'flow' of the event.

CH: Not only do we help with all aspects of entertainment, but we also coach them on how a great reception should run: cutting down on the amount of downtime, keeping things flowing well, building anticipation, keeping engagement and involvement with the guests so they put their phones down and actively participate. Everyone has been to multiple weddings, but I think people forget when they go to wedding after wedding that this is their time. I think people lose sight that it's their once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so we really want the audience to engage and be truly excited they were able to come. If the last song plays and the crowd is upset, you've done your job right.

JM: It's timeliness, it's being able to assimilate in any way we're needed, whether it's sweeping the floor, moving tables, coordinating with other vendors, holding off on the cake cutting until the photographer gets back from the restroom – it's being very aware of everything that's going on. People don't notice that attention to detail until it's not there and they've had a bad experience.

It seems like you are so much more than just great music. Tell us more about equipment you work with, etc.

JM: I think what we're known for is our lighting, and we do a lot with white drapery – our drapery is 16 feet in the air so it's very

grand looking. We have 80 white-housed battery-operated up-lights that are the most powerful ones you can buy, and we have intelligent-moving heads. In layman's terms, it's a light we can move around with a computer, whether it be our up-lighting or dance floor lighting. We can dynamically change the atmosphere and change the mood of the room.

Atmosphere seems important to your brand.

JM: Atmosphere is what we specialize in, whether it be choosing the style of cocktail music, choosing the volume levels, working with the venue to have control of the overhead lighting system to correspond with ours, the different colors we use...

We also just added two new photo booths. After some market research, we found that people like the instant gratification of the printed out photo. We have large backdrops that can accommodate large groups, but it also prints out those physical photos. That way if the client wants to use them for a scrap book, keep one for themselves, give a copy to the guests, it's very versatile with that. They're very modern-looking and non-obtrusive.

Any other special elements?

JM: Monograms are very popular. We have very high-end projectors where we can animate an entire wall if we wanted to, we can animate the monogram, use low-line dry ice for a 'dance on the cloud' effect, we can pin-spot things like floral centerpieces, we'll do custom first dance mixes. Chris will do a lot of first dance voiceovers where he interviews the bride and groom then we tie those interviews overtop of the song to create those powerful moments. Some people like confetti.

How does that go with venues?

JM: We use it sparingly [laughs]. And we use confetti that doesn't get ground into anything. It's foil.

When should couples get in touch with you?

CH: If you read any of the major bridal planners, they'll say book your DJ from six to nine months out. Well, the best of any profession are going to be booked from a year to 18 months out. Especially in busy times of the year like June and September. It really depends on your value structure. If you value

3 fun facts about Pinnacle Productions:

- Pinnacle purchased its dream 4,000-sq. foot home in 2015 that houses its team of six full-time employees and 12 "weekend-warriors."
- They have over 150 Five Star reviews from past clients on the industry leading Wedding Wire website.
- Outside of weddings, the company has performed for countless celebrities and professional athletes across the country, including NBA legend Julius Erving

entertainment, we can work with you and help you book other vendors.

You travel, correct?

JM: Typically a four-hour radius. We've played in Okoboji, Vermillion, Brookings, Pierre, Watertown, Sioux City, Omaha, Lincoln, Des Moines, Rapid City, Bismark... a lot of different places.

What trends have you noticed?

CH: I meet with a lot of people and at least half have been saying, please nothing cheesy – no dollar dance, no 'Chicken Dance,' no garter toss, no begging-for-money scenarios. They just want a wedding reception based on them, and they don't care about all of the frills. They just want to have a great time. The other stuff we get asked quite frequently on is lighting design.

JM: Another request we're hearing is that they don't want the DJ to be the center of attention. I think 10 years ago it was the radio voice DJ in the neon-green vest that's obnoxious. It becomes too much about them, so we fall into the middle of that. How do we keep guests engaged, how do we make proper announcements, how do we have our own spin on it without ever becoming the center of attention? And that's huge.

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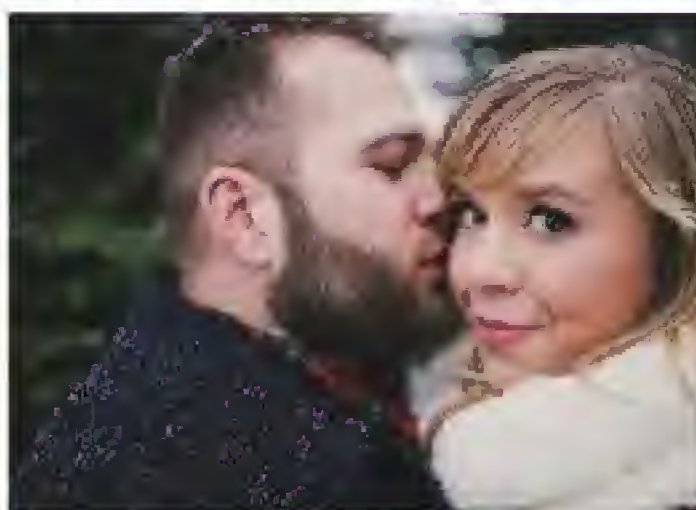


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EMILY + EVAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROCHELLE LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY
LOCATION: FAMILY FARM, GRAND FORKS, ND

From the bride ... Music is a big passion for both of us (we both have college degrees in music), and after college we both joined a local chamber choir called the Grand Forks Master Chorale. Although we met there and sang together for nearly a year, it wasn't until the end of that season that Evan asked me to grab coffee at our local downtown coffee shop. When I arrived, I was so embarrassed to find that Evan had homework for an online class he was completing spread out on his table. Assuming it was a 'regular' date, I arrived empty handed! I was completely embarrassed, although he later defended himself by claiming he thought I was going to stand him up.





"After our first look, Evan and I were able to share some special time praying together. That helped us center ourselves emotionally and spiritually before the chaos began."

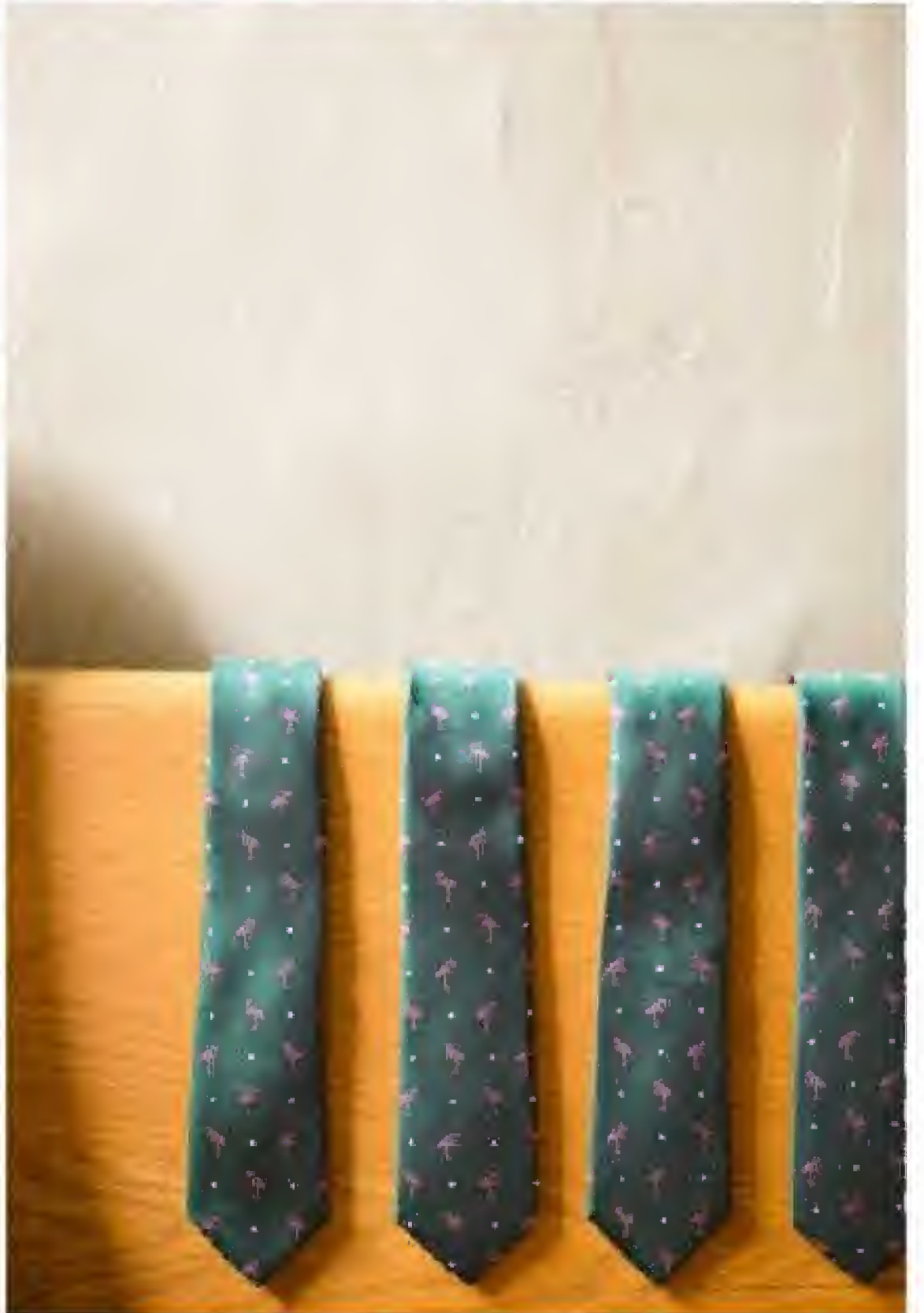
♡ Bride

"Although it made for a lot more work and stress, I am so happy we got to host our family and friends at our farm. It was a unique and meaningful location for us, and all of the work was definitely worth it!"
♥ Bride





Thunderstorms threatened our day, but they held off until after the festivities. After the ceremony, everyone headed out to the farm for the reception. We couldn't have been happier with how well everything turned out. My parents had their wedding dance in the same farm shop 30 years earlier, which made it extra special. I was nervous to see how the entire event came together because we had a lot of aesthetics to deal with: the industrial-rustic look of the shop, the elegant tent, and the surrounding countryside and farmyard. I was pleasantly surprised when everything came together at the last minute looking even better than I imagined!







FLOWERS: SADIE'S COUTURE FLORAL & EVENT STYLING

GROOMS ATTIRE: TIP TOP TUX & THE TIE BAR

DRESS: HEARTSTRINGS BRIDAL

BRIDESMAID DRESSES: THE WEDDING SHOPPE

HAIR STYLIST: SALON SEVA

CATERER: QUALITY CATERING

CAKE: MOLLY YEH OF MY NAME IS YEH

INVITES AND WEDDING STATIONERY: BEEGEE DESIGNS

CHURCH: ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

RECEPTION: BRIDE'S FAMILY FARM

BAND: SNEAKY WILD OATS OF GRAFTON, ND

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROCHELLE LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY



Dainty
STYLED SHOOT



Just Married

WES EISENHAUER PHOTOGRAPHY

The wedding is over. It's finally time to wind down in your hotel suite, eat your cake, and reminisce on your entire day. That is what we dreamed up for our spring/summer bridal shoot featuring gorgeous gowns from South Dakota designer Jessica Lynn of Jacklynn Bridal.





DELIA BODICE, \$300
AURORA SKIRT, \$1,700
KATE SPADE CLEAR DOUBLE DROP EARRINGS, \$68
PETER STORM // 18K WHITE GOLD ROUND DIAMOND TAVE HEAD WITH BRILLIANT CUT



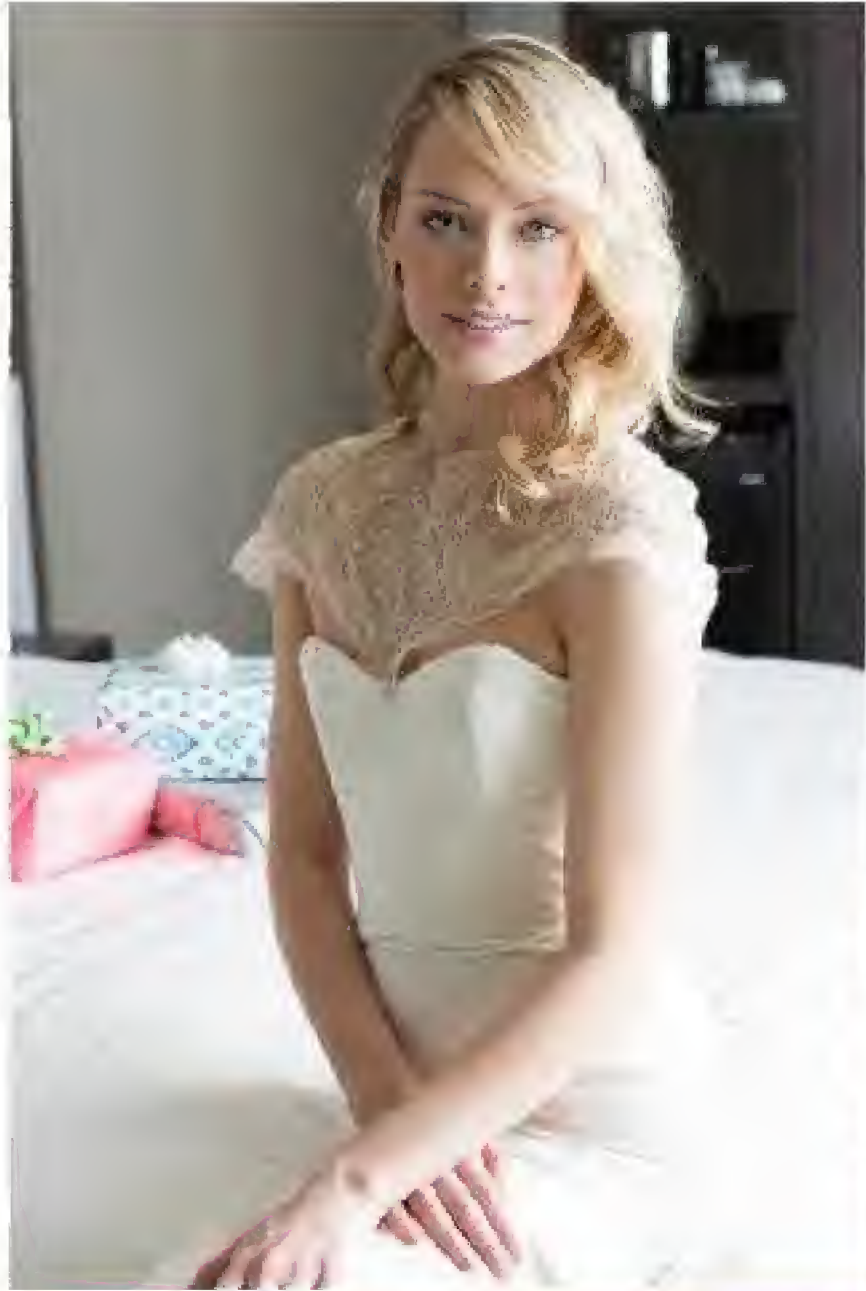


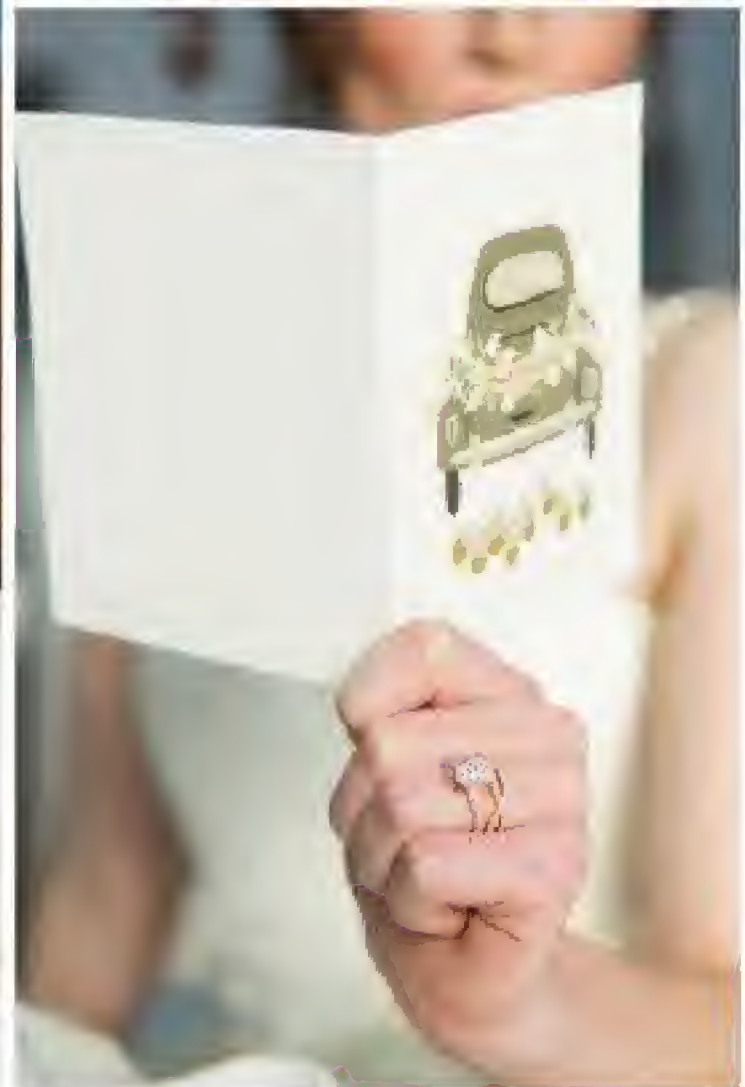


LAUREN TOP, \$700
RILEY SKIRT, \$1,300
SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL AND RHODIUM-PLATED MINI BELLA EARRINGS, \$69
14K WHITE GOLD PEAR SHAPE SAPPHIRE WITH ROUND DIAMOND HALO RING, \$3,325



ALEXIS GOWN, \$2,800
A. JAFFE // 14K ROSE GOLD ROUND DIAMOND PROFILE SHANK MOUNTING WITH OVAL CENTER, \$2,300
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ELENA GOWN, \$2,500
 CRISS-CROSS BAND // HENRI DAUSSI 18K ROSE GOLD ROUND DIAMOND CRISS-CROSS ANNIVERSARY BAND, \$2,300

Credits ♡ ♡ ♡

Photography: WES EISENHAUER PHOTOGRAPHY

Hair: VANESSEN'S HAIR DESIGN

Flowers: THE FLOWER MILL

Venue 1: GRAND FALLS CASINO & GOLF RESORT

Venue 2: HILTON GARDEN INN SIOUX FALLS DOWNTOWN

Rings: BORSHEIMS FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS

Makeup: SABREENA FRANCES HAIR + MAKEUP

Dresses: JACKLYNN BRIDAL

Models: MERIDITH GOULD + CATHERINE HOLLAND



ALYSSA + BRYCE

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIMEE MORSE
LOCATION: SUPERIOR RENTALS, BAYFIELD, WI

From the event coordinator ... Alyssa and Bryce's wedding weekend started with their close family and friends touring the Apostle Islands Friday afternoon. Saturday morning while we got tables all set up and decorated, it was downpouring! Alyssa and Bryce obviously wanted to have the ceremony outside next to the water, but if the rain wouldn't let up, it would be held underneath the tent.





"I love how Alyssa and Bryce really took advantage of everything Bayfield has to offer - touring the Apostle Islands, local flowers, the ceremony right on the bay, fresh local fish on the menu, pictures of their family's sailboat, and much more!"
♥ Event Coordinator, Emily





Alyssa and her bridesmaids had adorable robes they were wearing the whole morning while getting ready. While the ladies were getting their hair and makeup done, the men were getting ready at The Chequamegon Hotel. After Alyssa's mother and sister helped get her dress on, Alyssa and Bryce met in the marina next to the hotel for their first look. The pictures taken in the marina were on Alyssa's parents' sailboat. Luckily the rain had stopped a few hours beforehand, and we were able to get the ceremony set up outside next to the water.

Alyssa's parents, Steve and Cynthia, both walked her down the aisle. During their ceremony they planted a tree, which they plan on visiting in the coming years. Their officiant surprised everyone at the start of the recessional by singing the intro to "Shout" by The Isley Brothers a cappella. The song was then actually played, and the recessional began with the new Mr. and Mrs. followed by their wedding party dancing down the aisle. The guests showered the couple with biodegradable confetti!



From our end, our favorite moment was the ceremony. The weather was perfect, everyone was gorgeous, the birch arch covered in greenery next to the beautiful bay of Lake Superior was perfect. Everything came together perfectly.

"Around 10 p.m. they
had fireworks lit off
over the water next to
the tent."
→ Event Coordinator



"I absolutely loved
the combination of the
flag bunting (made by
a friend of Alyssa's)
and the flowers.
Also, Alyssa designed
the invitations and
programs herself!"
♥ Event Coordinator



alyssa's vendor list



VENUE: SUPERIOR RENTALS, BAYFIELD, WI
EVENT COORDINATOR/PLANNER: LACE & BRASS
EVENTS
DRESS: BLUSH BRIDAL

RENTALS: TRUE NORTH TENT & PARTY RENTAL
FLORAL STYLING + DÉCOR: LOVE OVER GOLD
FLOWERS: SECRET GARDEN FLORAL
CATERER + DESSERTS: THE FAT RADISH
OFFICIANT: ALEX CHICKER

HOTEL: THE CHEQUAMEGON HOTEL
MUSICIANS: NOT QUITE DEAD
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAIMEE MORSE



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2. *A vendor list*

3. *A write-up about the details of the wedding and planning*

4. *Submit to: alana@daintyobsessions.com*

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Whether you prefer a formal ceremony or a barefoot wedding on the beach, Bayfield offers many unique venue options. From the historic Lakeside Pavilion, located downtown and directly on the water, to a private tour boat cruise through the Apostle Islands. You are limited only by your imagination.

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By choosing such a distinctive destination with so many options for enjoyment and adventure in close proximity, you may find your guests extending their own stay to spend time exploring the area and all it has to offer. Madeline Islands and the eclectic village of LaPointe are just a ferry-ride away, the exquisite sea caves just north of Bayfield beckon the daring, local farm stands offer fresh berries and produce during the summer months and handmade pies, candies and fudge are always available at the shops along lovely Rittenhouse Avenue. What an extraordinary treat to bring your family and friends together in this remarkable place to celebrate your special day!

Visit BAYFIELDWEDDINGS.COM for inspiration, tips & resources to plan your own Bayfield Wedding.



sarah hardie
 (PHOTOGRAPHY . FOR THE LOVE)
 (SARAHHARDIEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

JENNIFER + HOA

PHOTOGRAPHY: CADEY REISNER WEDDINGS
LOCATION: BLACK HILLS RECEPTIONS & RENTALS, RAPID CITY, SD


From the bride ... We both love wine and live in San Francisco, so we probably spent the most time and care in picking out our wedding wine from one of our favorite Sonoma County wineries, Bartholomew Park Winery. We also paid a pretty penny for the wine and to have it shipped to South Dakota. Then a few months later, I became pregnant, so I didn't even get to drink our special wedding wine at our wedding! Sad.



"Hoa proposed at our local dog park one night while walking our dog. Because we had been together for years and had discussed marriage, he wanted to propose in a way that wasn't an obvious set-up. I loved that our beloved dog got to be a part of it (even though he was going to the bathroom at the time)."

♥ Bride





"We didn't want a lot of the formalities involved with weddings, so it made the planning pretty easy. No seating chart to deal with, our invitations were electronic, all food and drinks were self-serve, etc. I didn't even buy my wedding dress until three weeks before, and I bought it online and just wore it out of the box."

♥ Bride



We wanted a rustic, casual feel to our wedding, and we didn't want any formality. Since it was a smaller wedding of around 90 and most of the guests knew each other, we had communal tables where guests were free to sit wherever and with whomever they wanted. It also allowed them to mingle and move around during the reception.



My mom was a huge help. She was in charge of wrangling our dogs, which was a bigger task than expected as one of them decided to run away and go for an adventure right before the ceremony. Luckily, she was able to find him before the ceremony, though he was dirty and covered in burrs. All of my bridesmaids were great in helping me get ready and keeping a hold of my stuff, and my bridesmen were great at corralling the guests and keeping things on schedule, as well as tip and coordinate with the vendors.



"A funny moment
was when we poked
fun at the fact that
I was seven months
pregnant."
♥ Bride



jennifer's vendor list



VENUE: BLACK HILLS RECEPTIONS & RENTALS
DRESS: TIFFANY ROSE
JEWELRY: ALEXIS BITTAR
BRIDESMAID DRESSES: J. CREW
GROOMS ATTIRE: BANANA REPUBLIC
GROOM + GROOMSMEN'S TIES: WOOD THUMB

RINGS: INTA GEMS
HAIR STYLIST: SALON ONE
FLOWERS: JOLLY LANE FLORA
CATERER: MIKE'S CATERING
DESSERTS: JERRY'S DONUTS
WINE: BARTHOLOMEW PARK WINERY

TRANSPORTATION: STURGIS TRANSIT
BAND: SIX MILE ROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY: CADEY REISNER WEDDINGS





Dainty
STYLED SHOOT

FARM TO TABLE

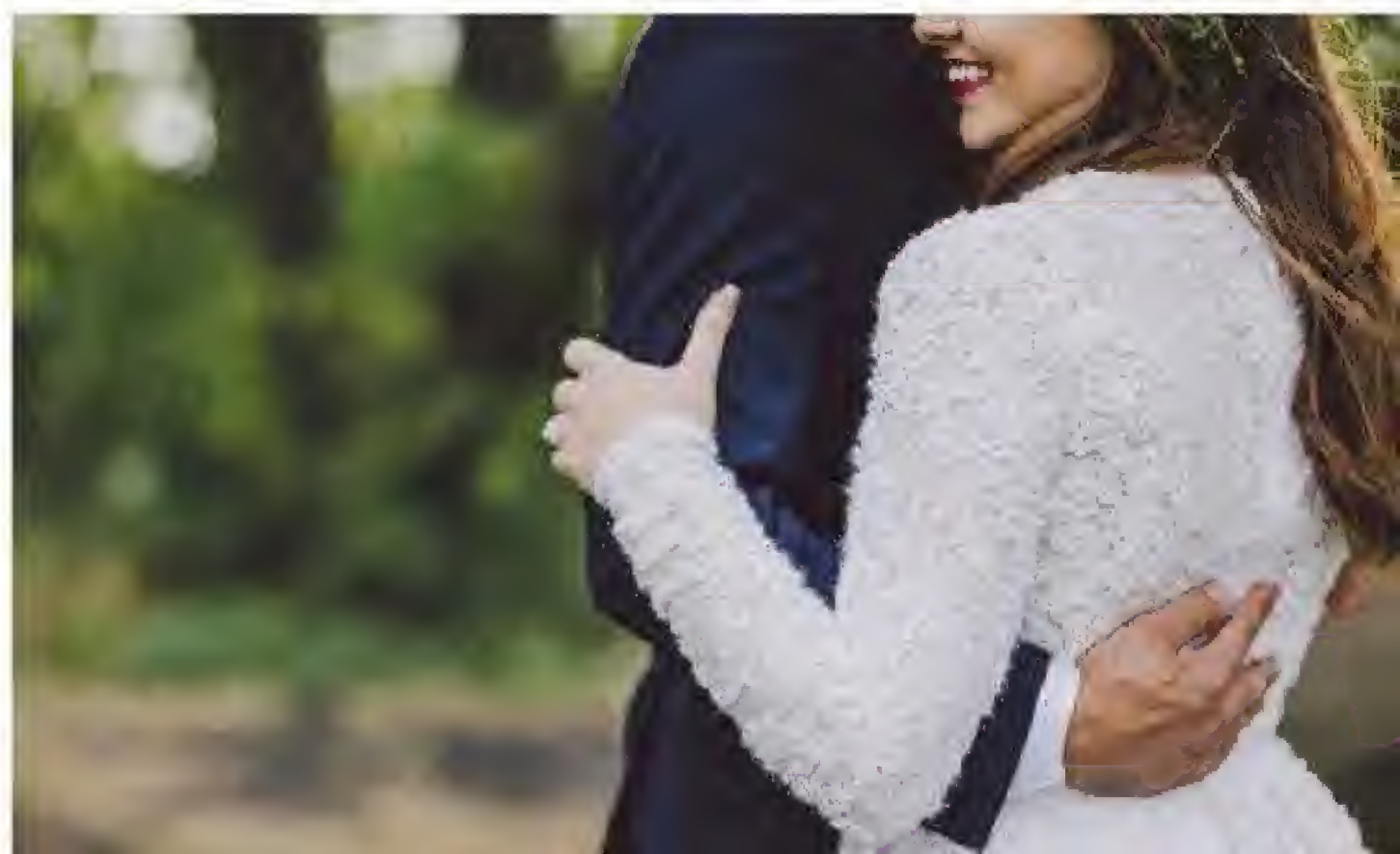
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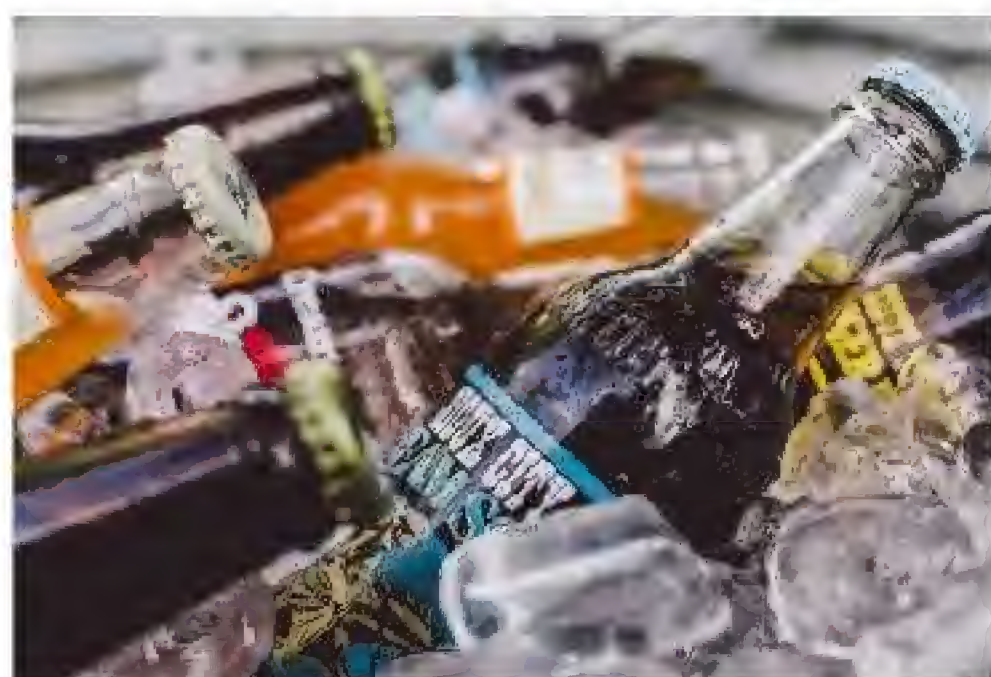






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18KT WHITE GOLD WITH A RADIANT CUT. 1.073CT CENTER DIAMOND ACCENTED WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 1 CTS, \$15,712.



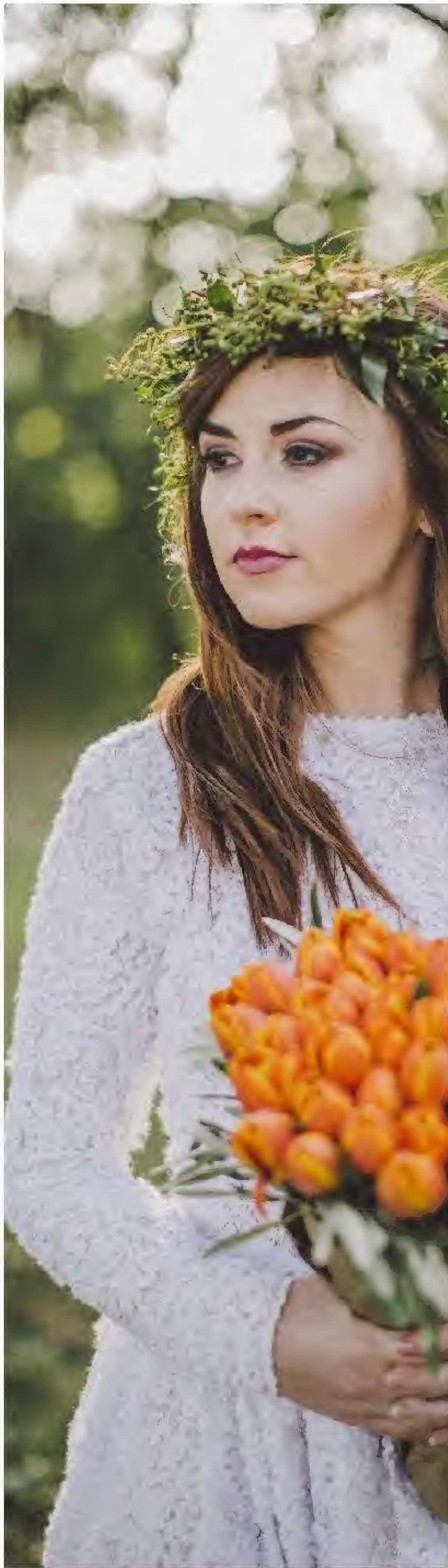
HERBS DRAPED OVER OUR HEAD TABLE THAT WAS POSITIONED PERFECTLY UNDER NATURAL SHADE, THANKS TO THE LARGE TREE AT RUSTIC OAKS. LOCALLY-SOURCED HONEY AND HONEY DIPPERS MADE FOR SWEET FAVORS, WHILE ANTIQUE PLATES AND GOLD SILVERWARE PULLED TOGETHER THE PERSONAL DETAILS. A LOAF OF LOCAL BREAD AND A CHEESE PLATTER WERE THERE TO WELCOME GUESTS TO THE OUTDOOR NUPTIALS.



CAROLINE HAYDEN STRETCH EMBROIDERED LACE DRESS, \$1,000.



OUR BRIDE HELD TULIPS THAT LOOKED STRAIGHT FROM THE FARMERS' MARKET, ALONG WITH HER ETHEREAL CROWN OF GREENERY THAT CARRIED INTO HER COUTURE CAROLINE HAYDEN GOWN WITH FLORAL ACCENTS. OUR GROOM ACCENTED HIS SUIT WITH AN UPCYCLED, LOCALLY-MADE TIE FROM AENDEE.



LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, WAS THE INCREDIBLE DESSERT SPREAD BY NICHOLE'S FINE PASTRY, INCLUDING TARTS, MINI-CHEESECAKE BITES, AND A TRADITIONAL NORWEGIAN CONFECTION, KRANSEKAKE. SKÅL (CHEERS)!





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Credits ♡ ♡ ♡

Styling + Floral: SADIE'S COUTURE FLORAL & EVENT STYLING

Photography: GLASSER IMAGES

Video: GRASSFIRE STUDIOS

Makeup: GLAMOUR GRACE

Sweets + Treats: NICHOLE'S FINE PASTRY

Tie: AENDEE

Rings: RIDDLE'S JEWELRY

Venue: RUSTIC OAKS

Rentals: PRAIRIE PETALS EVENTS & DESIGN

Invites + Paper: FATE + LOVE STATIONERY

Dress: CAROLINE HAYDEN

Models: ASHLEY DEDIN + SETH CARLSON

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MARA + ERIC

PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN EDENS PHOTOGRAPHY
LOCATION: PENNY TREE EVENTS, PARKER, SD

From the bride ... Eric and I met four years ago at Dordt College. I had just transferred to Dordt and had gotten placed in what I thought was the wrong chemistry course, but it turns out it was the right one, as it led us to the beginning of our story. Eric and I paired up to do numerous homework assignments, which then turned into many hikes and long walks, and we have been together ever since.







best day ever

Mara
&
Eric

09.04.2015

Parker, South Dakota

The ceremony

"My mom, my aunt/wedding coordinator, and myself wanted to do most of the planning and décor detailing ourselves so it would have more meaning and the personal touch that Eric and I hoped would set an elegant, yet rustic atmosphere for our guests on our special day."

♥ Bride



We wanted our wedding to reflect our love for the outdoors; simple, yet elegant in its natural state. Our ceremony and reception was held at Penny Tree Events, which was the perfect venue for us. All of the tall trees surrounding the venue created such a peaceful and romantic setting for our special day.

Red's Steakhouse provided us with a delicious bread-dipping bar with various breads, oils, and vinaigrettes available for the guests directly after the ceremony during cocktail hour. They could then grab one of our complimentary signature cocktails, the 'Blushing Bride' and 'Canadian on the Rocks', to accompany their appetizers. Red's also did an amazing job on executing our desire of having 'glorified BBQ'-type food served to our guests (who doesn't love good BBQ food?!).




It was a perfect day for Eric and me, surrounded by our closest family, friends, and the beautiful weather that accompanied us on September 4. It was the 'Best Day Ever!'

"To top off the night, we had a dessert buffet that had a variety of desserts available: pecan pie, which is Eric's favorite dessert, and donuts, my favorite dessert, accompanied with some cookies, cupcakes, and caramel apples."

✓ Bride



A full-page photograph of a bride and groom in a wedding ceremony. The groom, on the left, is wearing a dark blue suit and a light pink tie. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white wedding dress and a long, flowing veil. They are both smiling and looking at each other, with their foreheads touching. The bride is holding a large bouquet of flowers, including pink and white roses, yellow flowers, and greenery. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green grass and trees.

"The music during the ceremony, as well as our first dance, was sung and played by some of our close college friends, which made it even more special for Eric and me."

♥ Bride

VENUE: PENNY TREE EVENTS

FLOWERS: THE FLOWER MILL

CAKE: THE CAKE LADY

PHOTOGRAPHY: JORDAN EDENS PHOTOGRAPHY

BRIDE'S DRESS: LA SPOSA

SHOES: DSW

GROOMS ATTIRE: BAR III (MACY'S)

RENTALS: ABC RENTALS

CATERER: RED'S STEAKHOUSE

CALLIGRAPHER: CASSIE HOLWERDA (MAID OF HONOR)

OFFICIANT: PASTOR BOB POLLEMA

DJ/LIGHTING: JADE MUSIC PRODUCTIONS





No Piece of Cake

EMILY SWAN PHOTOGRAPHY

It's becoming surprisingly more common that couples are requesting to drop the wedding cake altogether to customize their day. While cupcakes and doughnuts have become increasingly popular, the Dainty crew pulled together seven other unique alternatives for your dessert table.





COOKIES + MILK

Create a fun twist with an oldie but a goodie, like these iced sugar cookies formed to hang out of your milk, ready for dipping!

CEREAL CAKE

With layers of Special K Bars and Rice Krispies Treats glazed in ganache, this beautifully constructed dessert is a nostalgic showstopper.



SHOT GLASS DESSERTS

Perfect for a bite-sized treat that also looks elegant. These delectable options include a Raspberry Cream Brownie Mint, Meyer Lemon, and Tiramisu parfait.





ITALIAN SODA BAR

Treat your party to either traditional or creamy Italian sodas. While still sweet and delicious, it's a lighter option.



STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

Northwest cheesecake tiers adorned with a crown of sliced strawberries give that pop of color that will make your guests' mouths water.

CHEESE CAKE

Who doesn't dream of eating a tower of cheese? Try different flavors to create texture and diverse sampling, like this beauty with Sartori Pepper Bellevitano, Saxton Creamery Gouda, and Spanish Manchego, topped off with Colby Horn.



Credits ♡ ♡ ♡

Cookies + Parfaits + Croquembouche: SUGARS BAKED GOODS AND SWEET TREATS

Cheesecake + Cereal Cake: THE CAKE LADY

Italian Sodas: JOHNNY CARINO'S

Cheese Cake: CHEESE WORLD

Antiques: ANTIQUES ON 18TH

Bar Cart + Mirror Tray: TARGET

Venue: LANDSCAPE GARDEN CENTERS

Photography: EMILY SWAN PHOTOGRAPHY



CROQUEMBOUCHE

This French dessert is an impressive alternative with delicate choux puffs filled with pastry cream, constructed into a dramatic tower held together with caramel and wrapped in spun sugar.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



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SALLY + ANDREW

PHOTOGRAPHY: MEG COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY
LOCATION: FAMILY CABIN, EMILY, MN

From the bride ... We met and began dating in 2006 at the University of Kansas. We were both born and raised in the Midwest, so after college graduation we decided to make a big change and try our luck at moving to Maui, Hawaii. We have been living on Maui since 2010 and have loved every second! Andy works at Kapalua Golf, and it was only fitting that he proposed on the most iconic Hole #5 of the Kapalua Bay Course on the Pacific Ocean at sunset.



"I created a completely separate e-mail account for all wedding-related items, so that way I could essentially 'turn off' wedding planning e-mails when needed."
♥ Bride



"Planning a northern Minnesota wedding from the middle of the Pacific seemed like a daunting task, so I hired Rosetree Weddings & Events as our wedding planner and day-of coordinator. Rosetree helped provide recommendations of vendors, helped coordinate décor and rentals, and helped keep me on a timeline of what needed to be done."

♥ Bride





We decided the place that was most special to both of us was my family cabin in northern Minnesota. We wanted the look to be crisp, clean, and with a touch of Hawaiian influence. We chose navy and white as our colors with beautiful white orchids and lush tropical greenery. Our Minnesota friends and family worked hard all summer getting the property perfect for our wedding day.



I loved our ceremony. We wrote the entire thing ourselves after reading many ceremonies online. We had our family friend, Pete, marry us and it was a great blend of traditional vows, humor, fun music, and we even did a Hawaiian Lei exchange. We incorporated a few Hawaiian songs we love, "Honey Baby" by Three Plus, and had our friend, Joe, play "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on the ukulele. The reception music was incredible. Our group loves to dance, and I don't think we sat down once!



"Immediately following our ceremony, Andy and I darted off to the cabin's loft area to have a private dinner and soak it all in. After 20 minutes, we joined in the festivities outside. During the entire dinner service, we were able to walk around and talk to everyone and not be preoccupied with eating."
♥ Bride



sally's vendor list



PHOTOGRAPHY: MEG COOPER PHOTOGRAPHY
EVENT COORDINATOR/PLANNER: ROSETREE
 WEDDINGS & EVENTS
DRESS: CASABLANCA BRIDAL
GROOMS ATTIRE: MEN'S WEARHOUSE

HAIR & MAKEUP: STUDIO POSH
RENTALS & DÉCOR: APRES
FLOWERS: BLOOM DESIGNS
CATERER: PRAIRIE BAY
CAKE: WOOLLET'S BAKERY

TRANSPORTATION: REICHERT, BRAINERD
VENUE: WALDON FAMILY CABIN
DJ: MICHAEL GREY
LIGHTING: APRES




RACHEL + EDWARD

PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDSAY HERBST PHOTOGRAPHY
LOCATION: EAGLE RIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA, GALENA, IL

From the Bride ... Edward and I were living in London, England and met at an awards ceremony we were each attending for work. After dating for four years, Edward surprised me with an engagement in my hometown, Dubuque, IA, on stage following a production of *The Nutcracker* just before Christmas. It was incredibly elaborate and was done with the help of my aunt and my former ballet director. Many of my family and friends were in the audience, unbeknownst to me!



A full-page photograph of a bride and groom in a romantic embrace, kissing on a wooden deck. The groom is wearing a dark suit, and the bride is in a white wedding dress, holding a large bouquet of white flowers. The background is a dense, sun-dappled forest of green trees. The text is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

"As we had so many guests from around the world we planned four days of events, which required a huge amount of support from several people. My parents were incredible and managed so much for us as they were local to our selected venues."

♥ Bride



"Our invitations were made using an old fashioned letter press in England. We received so many compliments - one guest actually framed it as a wedding gift!"
♥ Bride



We originally planned to get married in the English countryside, but in the middle of planning, we accepted an opportunity to move to California. We then changed the wedding location to Eagle Ridge Gold Resort & Spa (Galena, IL) where I had visited frequently with my family as a child. It was important to us to honor our original concept, so we incorporated some British traditions and the décor was "English Garden" themed.



Guests flew in from all over the world (England, Australia, Hong Kong, Belgium), so we wanted to spend as much time with our loved ones as possible at the wedding. Because of this, we decided to have photos taken prior to the ceremony. The ceremony was very personal as the minister is a long-time family friend. We asked our readers to surprise us with their own selections and the readings they chose were stunning – absolutely one of our favorite parts of the day. After several laughs and just as many tears of happiness, we were married and off to our cocktail hour. We were then seated for a formal dinner, which included very touching and extremely humorous speeches from family and friends. Just after dinner, the band began to play and we danced into the night.





"I was very close to my grandmother who passed away several years ago, so I wrapped one of her handkerchiefs around my bouquet."
♡ Bride

EVENT COORDINATOR/PLANNER: MEGAN CARTER
FLOWERS & DECOR: CATHY BREITBACH, SECOND TO NONE EVENTS

CAKE: HY-VEE
INVITES AND WEDDING STATIONERY: CARD LAB
VENUE: EAGLE RIDGE GOLF RESORT & SPA

BAND: SUGARFOOT
HARPIST: MARK BREWER
PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDSAY HERBST PHOTOGRAPHY





Honeymoon Destination: Osaka, Japan
Wedding Location: Luverne, MN

honeymoon diaries

EMILY + SHELDON SWAN

Our very own sales manager, Emily Swan, celebrated her honeymoon and one-year anniversary this past fall in Osaka, Japan. The couple, who holds Japan close to their hearts (he proposed there!), celebrated with custom ramen, cat cafes, jaw-dropping sights, and so much more.

Where was your honeymoon, and how did you decide on the location?

We honeymooned in Japan, which is a country very dear to both of us. Sheldon has family there, and while we were visiting his family in Tokyo during the fall of 2013, Sheldon proposed to me! We decided to head back to Japan for our honeymoon and explore parts of the country that we didn't get the chance to see during our first trip.

Did you use a travel agent?

No, we made all of the flight and hotel reservations ourselves. However, leading up to our honeymoon, our flight reservations were cancelled on us twice without any notification from the third party booking site we used. It was so stressful discovering and dealing with the cancellations that, in hindsight, I wish we had worked with an agent!

What did you do right going into your honeymoon? What tips do you have for planning?

I did a lot of research on the area and booked hotels near points of interest and public transit. We're both flexible people and like exploring on our own, so we didn't go in with a hard itinerary or book any guided tours. Instead, I made a Google Doc list of points of interest and cities to explore along with brief descriptions of each and arranged them all by neighborhood or city. That way we could access the list using our phones and could quickly reference it to determine what was close by and where to go next. Once we'd visited something on the list, I would go in and cross it off. It was fun to see how much we had explored during our time there!

How long did you stay? Was it enough time in your opinion?

We were in Japan for 12 days, which was long enough to visit most of the places we wanted to. Our first trip to Japan was for just a week, and that was barely enough time to scratch the surface. If you're really interested in having time to explore both major attractions and off-the-beaten path spots, then stay as long as your wallet allows.

What were some well-known attractions you visited?

We visited Osaka Castle, Dotonbori shopping street, the Floating Garden in Umeda Sky Building, the Instant Ramen Museum, Nara, and Gion in Kyoto. All of these places are considered 'must-see' spots in the Osaka area and were definitely worth checking out.



"Wear shoes that are well broken in and are comfortable to wear for hours."



"You need to eat at a conveyor belt sushi restaurant!"





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honeymoon diaries

Any local places you fell in love with?

Since we went on our honeymoon exactly a year after our wedding, we opted to stay at a traditional Japanese hotel in a quaint hot-spring town northwest of Osaka to celebrate our anniversary. We took the shinkansen to get to the tiny town of Toyooka, which was an adventure all its own, and were able to experience small-town Japan away from the bright lights and crowds of Osaka. The hotel was founded over 300 years ago and provided us with traditional Japanese cotton robes and sandals to wear as we explored Toyooka on foot. Sheldon and I enjoyed visiting countless shops selling everything from quintessential Japanese wares to modern merchandise, bathing in the famous Japanese hot springs, and eating a delicious meal of sushi and sake. It was by far one of my favorite experiences during our trip.

What were some interesting foods you tried?

One of the local foods Osaka is famous for is takoyaki, or fried octopus balls. One of our first stops was to Dotonbori to try the treat ourselves. They were pretty yummy, but burned our mouths since they come straight from the fryer! Japan is also famous for its ramen, so we were sure to check out a traditional ramen restaurant where you can chose on a scale of 1 to 5 how rich you want your broth.

What were some of your favorite activities?

Both my husband and I are animal lovers, so we made sure to capitalize on Japan's wacky animal-related tourism spots. We visited both a cat cafe and owl cafe in Osaka. Despite how the names sound, they're places where you can enjoy a soda or coffee and interact with either domestic cats or owls of various sizes and breeds for an hour at a time. We also got to pet and feed rice crackers to the thousands of wild Japanese deer, which make the city of Nara famous. Some will even bow to you to receive a rice cracker!

Talk about a special moment you'll never forget from your honeymoon.

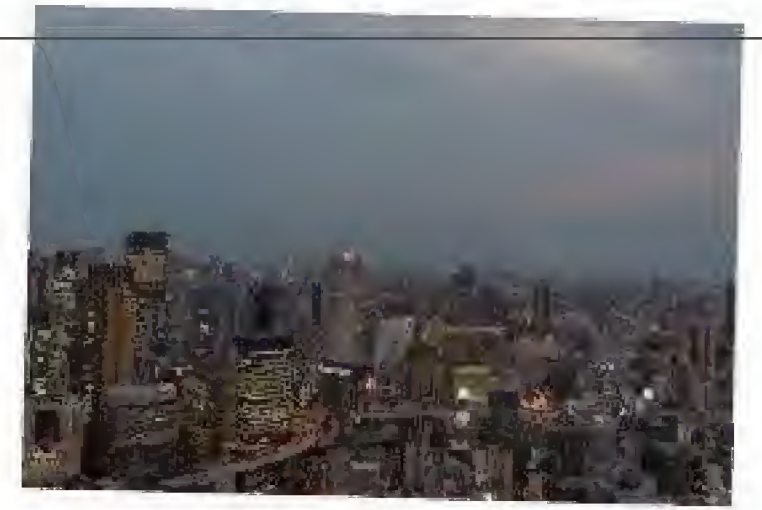
Japan has amazing arcades, so we had fun tapping into our inner children by competing against each other and trying our hand at UFO catchers, or claw machines, since they take them to a whole new level there. Sheldon even won me a giant Hello Kitty pillow that now serves as a fun daily reminder of our fantastic time in Osaka!

What are the top items you would suggest to bring for someone traveling to that location?

Wear shoes that are well broken in and are comfortable to walk in for hours. I ended up with sore feet after the second day because my shoes were not as comfortable as I thought they would be. I suggest packing several different pairs of walking shoes to rotate wearing throughout your trip and give your feet options. I can't stress enough how much walking you do in Japan, so be prepared to be active and on the go!

What is your "must do" list for those who have never been?

You need to eat at a conveyor belt sushi restaurant! Half of the adventure of being in a new country is eating its food, and these restaurants are too fun to overlook! We also had a blast visiting the Instant Ramen museum, where we made our very own custom cup of microwavable ramen noodles. Our hotel had chopsticks at the front desk and our room was equipped with an electric water boiler, so we could enjoy our cuisine in our hotel room after a long day of exploring!



"The hotel provided us with traditional Japanese cotton robes and sandals to wear as we explored Toyooka on foot."



"We visited both a cat cafe and owl cafe in Osaka."



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Honeymoon Destinations

BY DENISE DEPAOLO

The wedding is over and now it's time for a little one-on-one time with your one and only. But where to go? Here are two gorgeous honeymoon destinations that couldn't be more different, except in the promise to deliver a romantic experience full of local charm and their own unique slice of Americana. Mary Jo Nelson of Sioux Falls, SD-based Travel Partners shares her advice for where to stay once you get there.



DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Why is this a great place to visit?

Located just two hours north of Minneapolis, this picturesque city sits at the edge of the world's largest freshwater lake. Honeymooners can gaze out at the endless horizon, explore nearby forests, marvel at impeccable Victorian architecture, and learn about the city's rich maritime history.

Where to stay:

"In Duluth, I would recommend the Firelight Inn on Oregon Creek Bed and Breakfast. A true respite from the busyness of life, the inn is nestled on a secluded dead end street adjacent to the Oregon Creek and amidst turn of the century mansions and Old World Charm of the historic east end of the city."

Local history and culture:

Duluth is the perfect destination for honeymooners with dreams of the sea, or who love the opulence of America's Gilded Age. The city has many restored homes and estates open for public tours, including Glensheen (a 39-room mansion located on seven lakeside acres) and Fairlawn (a 42-room mansion built by a lumber tycoon, which also served for 40 years as a children's home).



Learn about the area's long seafaring tradition at the Split Rock Lighthouse in nearby Two Harbors, or the S.S. Meteor Maritime Museum in Superior. The S.S. Meteor, called the "last of the whalebacks," was originally launched in 1896. It affords visitors a hands-on historical experience, as they explore the pilot house, crew's quarters, and engine room.

Looking for adventure?

For a truly Great Lakes experience, head out for a day of charter fishing or sailing. For land lovers, the Duluth area boasts miles of wooded nature trails and rocky cliffs perfect for a day of exploring.

Ready to relax?

A tranquil local walking destination is Duluth's Rose Garden, located at Leif Erikson Park. The sprawling garden offers more than 3,000 rose bushes, a fountain, marble gazebo, an herb garden, and plenty of lake views for quiet contemplation.

For those who enjoy a relaxing drive, the Duluth area is home to many scenic byways. Nearby Scenic Highway 61 with its breathtaking views of Lake Superior's North Shore has been named an "All-American Road."



Where to eat and drink:

The Amazing Grace Bakery: Known for its full service breakfast, this eatery focuses on local, organic ingredients and serves sandwiches on home baked bread.

Bent Paddle Brewing Co.: The latest addition to Duluth's rich craft brewing culture. Stop by for a pint and a tour in the city's first taproom.

Bluefin Grille at Bluefin Bay: Located 80 miles north of Duluth on Scenic Highway 61, this restaurant has been voted "Minnesota's Favorite Resort Restaurant" by Minnesota Monthly Magazine. Described as "fine dining in a casual atmosphere," Bluefin is famous for its local fish dishes and made-from-scratch breads and desserts.

Romance on the water:

The Lakewalk is a can't-miss destination. Located along seven miles from Canal Park to 60th Avenue East, honeymooners can stroll hand-in-hand, stop for ice cream, or rent bikes.

Don't forget: Pack a windbreaker - even in the summer, the breeze off the lake can be brisk!



SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Why is this a great place to visit?

New Mexico's capital city is pure magic for visitors and residents alike. Santa Fe is a small pedestrian and pet-friendly community with a rich and unique artistic, architectural, and culinary identity. Warm, sunny days and cool, starry nights make it a pleasant place to visit all year.

Where to Stay:

"I would highly recommend The Inn of the Five Graces in Santa Fe. Described as a fusion of Tibetan and East Indian ideals blended in a unique Southwestern setting, this exotically gorgeous property offers a number of lavish accommodations and packages, like the Romancing the Senses, two nights accommodations, Southwest-inspired breakfasts, rose petals surrounding the room and bath after dining, along with chocolate covered strawberries and massages for two."

Soak up local culture:

At 400 years-old, Santa Fe is the nation's oldest capital city and is full of traditional adobe architecture. Frontiersmen at the turn of the 20th century called it "The Different City," a nickname that has been embraced by the thriving local creative community ever since. Visitors can experience a blend of Anglo, Spanish, and Native American cultures at every turn.

Looking for adventure?

Hikers don't have to travel far to find amazing, scenic trails for all abilities. The pristine wilderness of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is just a few minutes away from downtown.

Those looking for adventure on the river will find plenty of fun on the nearby Rio Grande and Rio Chama, designated as one of America's Wild and Scenic Rivers. Local outfitters including New Wave Rafting and Santa Fe Rafting Company can help rafters of all skill levels get onto the water.

Ready to relax?

Santa Fe has no shortage of ways to recharge mind, body, and spirit. The area's natural hot springs and high, dry climate are legendary for their rejuvenation abilities. As an actual oasis in the desert, the city offers a wide selection of spas staffed by master healers and body workers. Whether you're looking for a yoga retreat, a Japanese-style spa, or just a great massage, Santa Fe has you covered.

If hitting the links is your idea of a relaxing day, Santa Fe boasts some of the Southwest's most scenic courses. A must-play is Marty Sanchez Links de Santa Fe. Located just eight miles from downtown, the impeccable course is second only to the 360-degree mountain view.

Where to eat and drink:

Blue Corn Brewery: Stop here for Northern New Mexican pub fare, margaritas, and award-winning microbrews.

Atrisco Cafe & Bar: This neighborhood restaurant is known for its authentic New Mexican chile and locally-sourced ingredients.

The Compound Restaurant: Hailed by both the New York Times and Gourmet Magazine as a can't miss culinary destination, the setting is elegant adobe and intimate garden patios, while the menu is all about contemporary seasonal fare.

Local shopping:

Santa Fe is famous for its year-round art markets and boutiques featuring unique, handmade treasures including silver and turquoise jewelry, cowboy boots, salsa, apparel, furniture, and much more.

Don't forget: Pack plenty of sunscreen!



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- A pineapple
- Flowers
- A sharp knife
- A chopping board
- A spoon
- A small vase

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut the top off the pineapple (carefully).
- With a knife, carefully cut around the inside of the pineapple, leaving about 1 inch of outer skin. Then cut the inside section of pineapple into 4 sections to make it easier to take out.
- Scoop out the pineapple.
- Place flowers in vase and carefully set in pineapple.
- Add water and enjoy!

The Newlyweds

AT HOME



JOHN + PAIGE MEYER

John and Paige Meyer haven't been married long, but they have made the most of their time. Since tying the knot in late 2013, this Sioux Falls tech entrepreneur and TV journalist-turned-corporate recruiter have moved from their downtown loft to a charming house in one of the city's most established neighborhoods. And most recently, they welcomed baby Margot. The busy new family sat down to discuss how life has evolved since saying, "I do."

How did you meet?

Paige: It was April 2012. I'd recently moved back to Sioux Falls, my hometown, from Green Bay and I was working on a story about how businesses use Pinterest. I called this company 9 Clouds and asked for John, so I went to interview him. I found him to be very smart and very charming and he was a big Twins baseball fan, so I immediately connected to that. We kept Tweeting at each other and had drinks in May. In July, we went on our first date and the rest was history.

John, when did you know that Paige was 'the one'?

John: In early August, I met her parents. They were in town for a wedding. We had talked a lot about family being a big part of our

individual lives. Once we met each other's parents, we felt like that was the last thing. Then we felt like we knew. It was pretty quick - like six weeks. Paige knew exactly what she wanted and what she was looking for, so I think that made me take the whole thing a little more seriously.

Paige, did you see the proposal coming?

P: As John mentioned, very early on, we knew that we were meant to be. So once you know that fast you think, 'We're going to get engaged today.' So by late November, I was like, 'When are we going to get engaged?' I felt pretty confident that it was going to happen around the holidays. He met with my dad to ask for his permission, so I knew it was going to happen in a week or two.

What are some of the things that you remember most about your wedding day?

P: We got married at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. It's very picturesque for a wedding. Then our party was at Icon [Lounge and Event Hall]. Our flowers from The Flower Mill were gorgeous.

My mom helped so much. She actually wrote the menu, then the people at Parker's [Bistro] recreated her menu, which turned out awesome. I really wanted to do family-style. I wanted it to feel like going into one of those great Italian restaurants where it's really loud and festive and full of laughter and wine.

We wanted everything to be very local and very downtown, because that's who we are and how we started.

What were some of the most unique elements of your reception?

P: As far as entertainment, we had a band. We danced and had Bingo in between. The fact that we did Bingo was kind of an homage to John's family, because we always play Bingo at the Turner County Fair.



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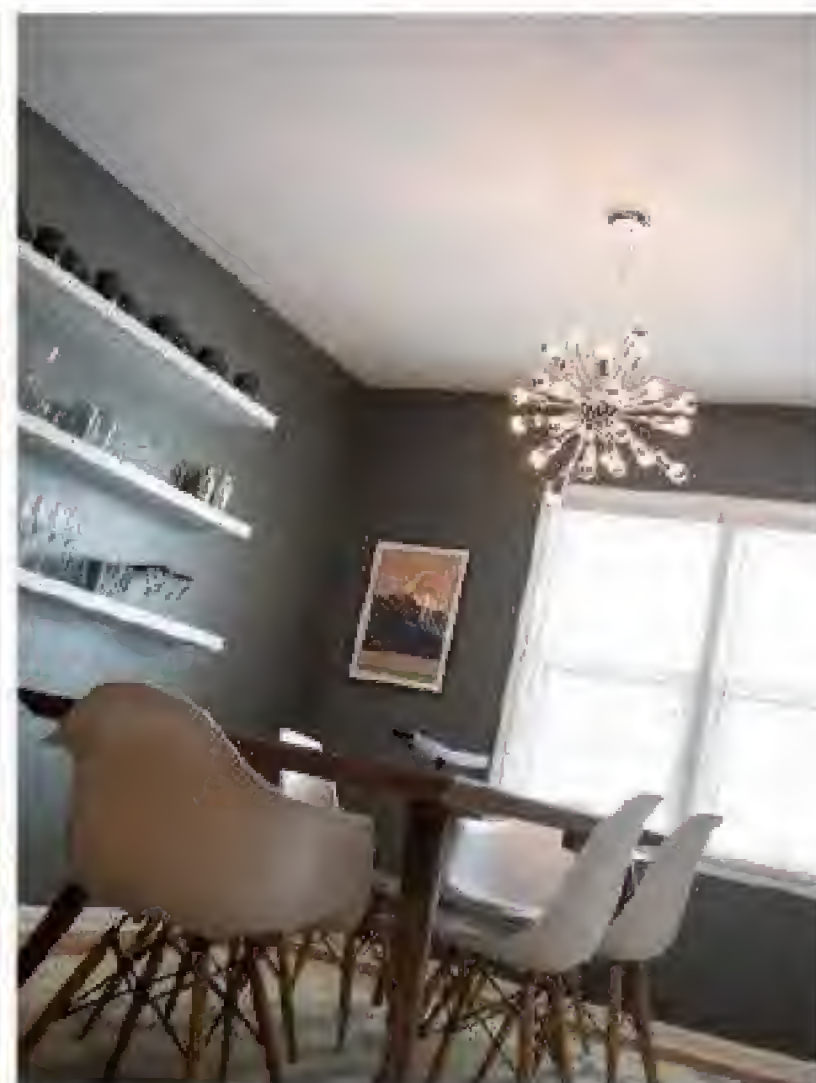
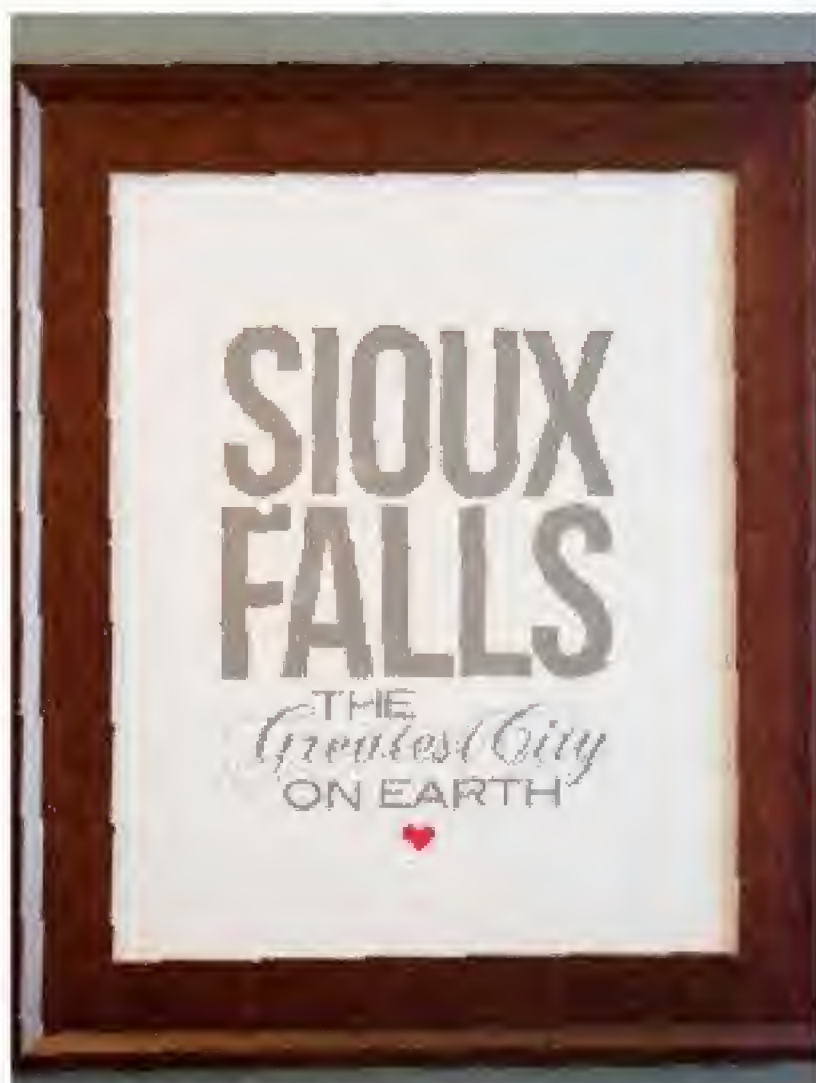
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Also, we had pie. Neither of us is a big cake fan, so we thought having pie would be fun. We had three different kinds, plus SDSU Ice Cream. It felt homey, warm, and inviting, which was important to us.

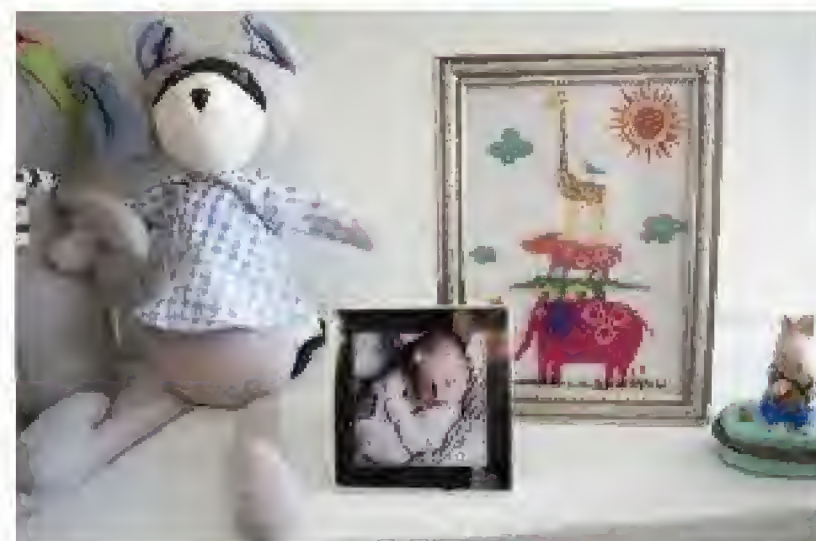
Tell us about the experience of moving from your downtown loft to your first house.

P: A dear friend of ours who was in our wedding is a realtor and told us about a couple looking to move and said we should look at their place. It was all off-market. We looked at this house in February of 2014. It was super charming and the previous owner had already done a lot of the heavy lifting as far as updates, and this neighborhood is fantastic. People here are so kind and helpful and supportive.

J: I never really left the bubble of downtown. That was like my entire social and business life. Here, we have more demographics - we have a couple of retired couples across the street, a young family down the street. We have a cool one-block street and so I think people are pretty close. That was a big adjustment. They'll know if you've been gone or haven't moved your car in a while, but the flipside is they're super helpful. It feels like a sense of community.

How have you made this home your own?

P: Paint, lighting, and we got all new furniture. You really feel like a grown-up once you move into a house and do that. Just like our wedding, we want it to be warm and inviting and for people to come here and plop down on a chair and stay for a few hours.



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How did your relationship evolve from dating to cohabitation to marriage?

P: I think each step has been a deeper commitment to each other. Someone told me that when you live together and then get married, it isn't much of a change. I completely disagree, because I felt that once we were married, it was just different. Again, you have this deeper level of commitment. Each phase I'm glad we went through, and we enjoyed each stage. I keep telling him, 'Let's remember what it was like before we had a child.' Those were really great times, too, so I want to make sure to document them via journaling or pictures, because they were great and they also led to Margot.

How has becoming parents affected your relationship?

J: I think I've felt a deeper relationship with Paige already because of Margot. It's a shared effort. We're both amazed by people who are single parents, because it's incredible. You need the help. It's strengthened our relationship, because it's hard. Right now, she's five weeks old, and we were joking that with a lot of parents, either their minds get erased or they forget the early days and gloss them over because of all the good things. It's totally worth it, but it's hard at the beginning. The first night we came home and got about four hours of sleep and wondered how we were ever going to function, but you adjust. Last night, she slept about seven hours and we were pumped.



You guys started a family pretty quickly. Do you think there's a 'right time?'

P: I do not think there is a best time. Although I will say being an only child, my parents put a lot of value into what they could emotionally and financially handle as parents. I think about that now and I'm like, 'Is it going to be one, or is it going to be two?' I don't know. But I'm very logical and I think, 'I want to provide the very best, so that might be fewer children.' Those are big conversations you need to have with your significant other. What's best for you? What do you think you can handle? Be very thoughtful about that, because you want to do the best you can for them.

What advice do you have for couples just starting out?

P: Number one that's most important for John and me is always to laugh. John is super funny and that was an instant draw for me. Obviously, you're going to go through some challenging times, so if you can find ways to laugh, that's so important.



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TESS OLSEN

"Avoid doing things just because they are traditional or you feel like you have to. It's your wedding day, so make it custom to what you like and try to put your own spin on things."



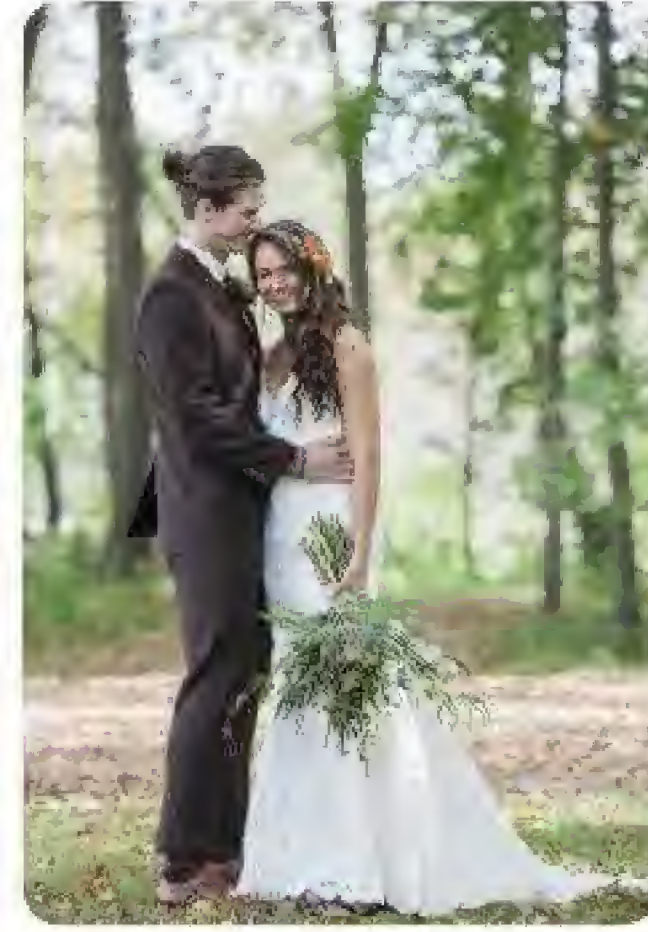
KRISTIN HENGEVELD

"Take the time at your reception to step away, just you two, in a corner to notice everyone who came out to support you and celebrate with you. It is really overwhelming to see how much people love and care for you. It was one of the many, many amazing memories from our special day."



JAMIN KAY

"Prioritize the things you would spend more money on versus the things you don't care too much about. I really wanted a beautiful dress, cake, and a great photographer. It saved us money to do the décor at the ceremony and reception ourselves. Choosing to have an intimate ceremony with just close family and then a larger reception afterwards where we invited friends and extended family made the ceremony more romantic."



HANNA BOROWSKI

"Wedding blogs, magazines, and Pinterest are all necessary tools for designing your dream wedding. But if you're the crafty type and are trying to DIY, it's also necessary to cut yourself off at some point. We had a long engagement, and as the time went on I kept finding cuter table settings, classier color schemes, and better bridesmaid dresses. I would recommend setting a deadline for yourself - a date when the brainstorming ends and your ideas become beautiful realities!"



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